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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,422	10/16/2003	Dean E. Voelker	VD1-3057-U	2236
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R REAMS	GOODLOE, JR. & R.	BOCHNA, DAVID		
24722 1047	H. AVENUE S.E.			
SUITE 102			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
KENT, WA 98030-5322			3679	•
			DATE MAIL ED: 04/25/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary David E. Bookna		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
David E. Bochna 3679 Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. If the period for reply specified shows it less than thiny (30) days, and provide the statutory minimum of thiny (30) days will be considered limity. If the period for reply specified shows it less than thiny (30) days, and provide the statutory minimum of thiny (30) days will be considered limity. If the period for reply specified shows it less than thiny (30) days, and provide the statutory minimum of thiny (30) days will be considered limity. If the period for reply specified shows it less than thiny (30) days, and provide the statutory minimum of thiny (30) days will be considered limity. Any reply received by the Office later than thrise months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any search general time algorithms. A proper shows the statutory of the statutory reply reduced the statutory reply reduced the statutory reduced any search general date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any search general date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any search general date of this communication. A possible of Claims A possible of Claim		10/688,422	VOELKER, DEAN E.				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ② MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensives them may be available used the provised and of 3°C RF1 136g). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed Extensive for may be specified above is less than thirty (20 days, a reply whith the statutory minimum of birty (30) days will be considered timely. If No period for reply specified above is less than thirty (20 days, a reply whith the statutory minimum of birty (30) days will be considered timely. If No period for reply specified above is less than thirty (20) days, a reply whith the set of outsided priod for reply will, by adulting priod will gain gray and will expire 30% (MONTHS from the mailing date of this commerciation, and priod the priod of reply will be set of outsided priod for reply will, by adulting the commerciation in the commerciation. Failure is reply within the set of outsided priod for reply will, by adulting the commerciation is described by the commerciation. Failure is reply within the set of outsided priod for reply will, by adulting the commerciation. Failure is reply within the set of outsided priod for reply will, by adulting the commerciation. Failure is reply within the set of outsided priod for reply will, by adulting the commerciation. The priod of the set of the commerciation is one-final. 1) Claim(s) 1.62 is/are pending in the application. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) Claim(s) 1.62 is/are pending in the application. 4) Claim(s) 1.62 is/are pending in the application. 4) Claim(s) 1.62 is/are pending in the application. 4) Claim(s) 1.62 is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1.61 is/are allowed. 7) Claim(s) 1.61 is/are allowed. 8) Claim(s) 1.61 is/are allowed. 8) Claim(s) 1.61 is/are allowed. 9) The specification is objected	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
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THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Ederations of time may be available used the provision of 3 CFR 1.13(6). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled after 5X (6) MONTIFS from the mailing date of this communication of the SX (6) MONTIFS from the mailing date of this communication, poly villation to reply it specified date of the communication of the same and the six (6) MONTIFS from the mailing date of this communication of reply is specified above, the maximum statusty priorist way and will expire 5X (6) MONTIFS from the mailing date of this communication, Fallure to reply villation the set or ordered period for reply will, by adults, cause the application to become ABANDONED (53 U.S. C. § 133). Any reply received by the Official erit than these mainted after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filled, may reduce any secured place to the supplication in since the supplication in the supplication in since the supplication in since or allowed and the supplication in since or allowed and supplication in since or allowed and supplication in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 62 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) 31-57 is/are allowed. Claim(s) 21-57 is/are allowed. Claim(s) 21-57 is/are allowed. Claim(s) 21-57 is/are allowed. Claim(s) 21-57 is/are allowed. Claim(s) 31-57 is/are allow							
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DETAILED ACTION

Page 2

Election/Restrictions

1. Claim 62 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected method, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on 1/20/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- 3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin.

In regard to claim 1, Martin discloses an article of manufacture comprising:

- (a) a pipe 12 having a longitudinal axis, a smooth outer wall, and an end opening and
- (b) a slip coupling forming a slidable, pressurizable fluid tight seal with said smooth outer wall of said pipe, said slip coupling comprising

an outer casing 13, said outer casing having an interior passageway, said interior passageway sized and shaped to fit therein at least some length of said pipe 12, and a flanged end 16;

a split ring 19, said split ring comprising first and second ring portions, said first and second ring portions each having an interior wall 18, said interior wall further comprising at least one gasket seat (space created by intersection of 18 and 17), said first and second ring portions adjustably movable between an open position wherein said first and second ring portions open to allow attachment to or removal from said pipe, and a closed position wherein said first and second ring portions are securable in close fitting engagement around said pipe;

a gasket 21, said gasket located at said at least one gasket seat in said inner wall of said first and said second ring portions, said gasket adapted for providing a fluid tight seal between said split ring and said smooth outer wall of said pipe.

In regard to claim 3, the first and second ring portions, when in said closed position, comprise a split ring having a substantially annular ring shape which extends between an outer wall and said interior wall.

In regard to claim 4, wherein said split ring further comprises a plurality of longitudinally extending bolt through apertures 22 defined by bolt hole interior walls.

In regard to claim 17, wherein said flanged end 16 of said outer casing extends radially outward from said outer casing to an outer end to provide an integral outer casing flange of width sufficient to provide, along a longitudinal axis, a plurality of fastener holes defined by flange interior edge wall holes.

In regard to claim 20, wherein the material for manufacture of said outer casing is selected from the group consisting of (a) high density polyethylene, (b) an aluminum alloy, (c) stainless steel, (d) brass, (e) carbon steel, (f) polyvinyl chloride, or (g) a moldable reinforced composite material.

In regard to claim 21, wherein the material for manufacture of said split ring is selected from the group consisting of (a) high density polyethylene, (b) an aluminum alloy, (c) stainless steel, (d) brass, (e) 10 carbon steel, (f) polyvinyl chloride, or (g) a moldable reinforced composite material.

In regard to claim 25, wherein said first and second ring portions 19 of said split ring are identical.

In regard to claim 26, wherein each one of said split ring portions 19 comprises a pair of ear portions 14, said ear portions each having a face portion (interior portions of 14) adapted for matching engagement with an identical face portion of another split ring portion.

In regard to claim 58, wherein said gasket 21 comprises a resilient material having a coefficient of friction sufficiently low that said gasket remains seated during sliding movement of said gasket over said smooth outer wall of said pipe 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 5. Claims 2, 5 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Marzolf, Sr. Martin discloses making a strong and durable slip coupling as described above, but does not disclose the use of backing flanges on the casing or the split ring. Marzolf, Sr. teaches using backing flanges with bolt holes on both sides of a clamped flanged body in order to strengthen the coupling portions of the clamp body. Therefore it would have

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been obvious to person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the coupling of Martin to include backing flanges, as taught by Marzolf, Sr., in order to make the expansion coupling stronger and more durable.

- 6. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin. Martin discloses a split ring with four through apertures, not eight. However, it would have been obvious to provide the flange with 8 holes because duplicating the components of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).
- 7. Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Marzolf, Sr. Martin in view of Marzolf, Sr. discloses a coupling as described above, but does not disclose the exact material of the flanges. However it would have been obvious to make the flanges out of a material recited by the Applicant because the selection of a known material based upon its suitability for the intended use is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).
- 8. Claims 59-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin. Martin discloses a coupling as described above, but does not disclose the exact material of the gasket. However it would have been obvious to make the gasket out of a material recited by the Applicant because the selection of a known material based upon its suitability for the intended use is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

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Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 7-16 and 27-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

claim and any intervening claims.

10. Claims 31-57 are allowed.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. McHughs, Roberts, Larkin, Hill, Brown, and Gillet all disclose similar couplings

common in the art.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to David Bochna whose telephone number is (703) 306-9040. The

examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

David Bochna

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 3679

April 18, 2005